



Redistricting 101: How redistricting maps are made & why it's important

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Agenda

- Why is redistricting important?
- Definitions
- Rochester and Minnesota by the numbers
- Current Rochester Wards
- Redistricting Requirements
- Rochester Interactive Map
- How maps are made
- Public Comment on draft maps
- Additional Resources

Have a question?

Utilize the raise hand function

Or

Type your question into the chat



Why is redistricting important?

It is important to make sure everyone is represented equally in government.

This is the idea of “**one person, one vote.**”

This applies to our representation at all levels of government from local to federal.

For Rochester residents, redistricting impacts who represents you at:

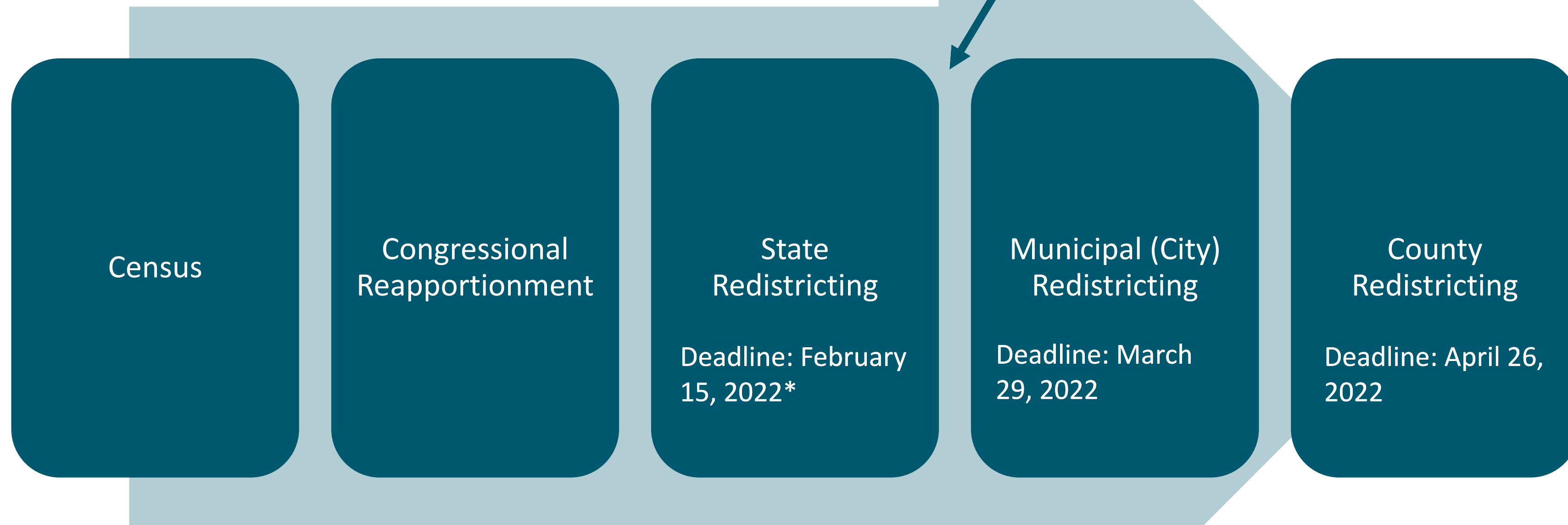
- Rochester City Council
- Olmsted County Board of Commissioners
- MN House of Representatives
- MN Senate
- US House of Representatives



Why is redistricting important?

Following the Census, we are required to redraw electoral district boundaries to account for population shifts and growth to ensure equal representation.

We are here.



*This is a legislative deadline. For the last 4 decades, the Minnesota legislature has missed this deadline and a Special Judicial Panel has drawn the congressional and legislative maps.

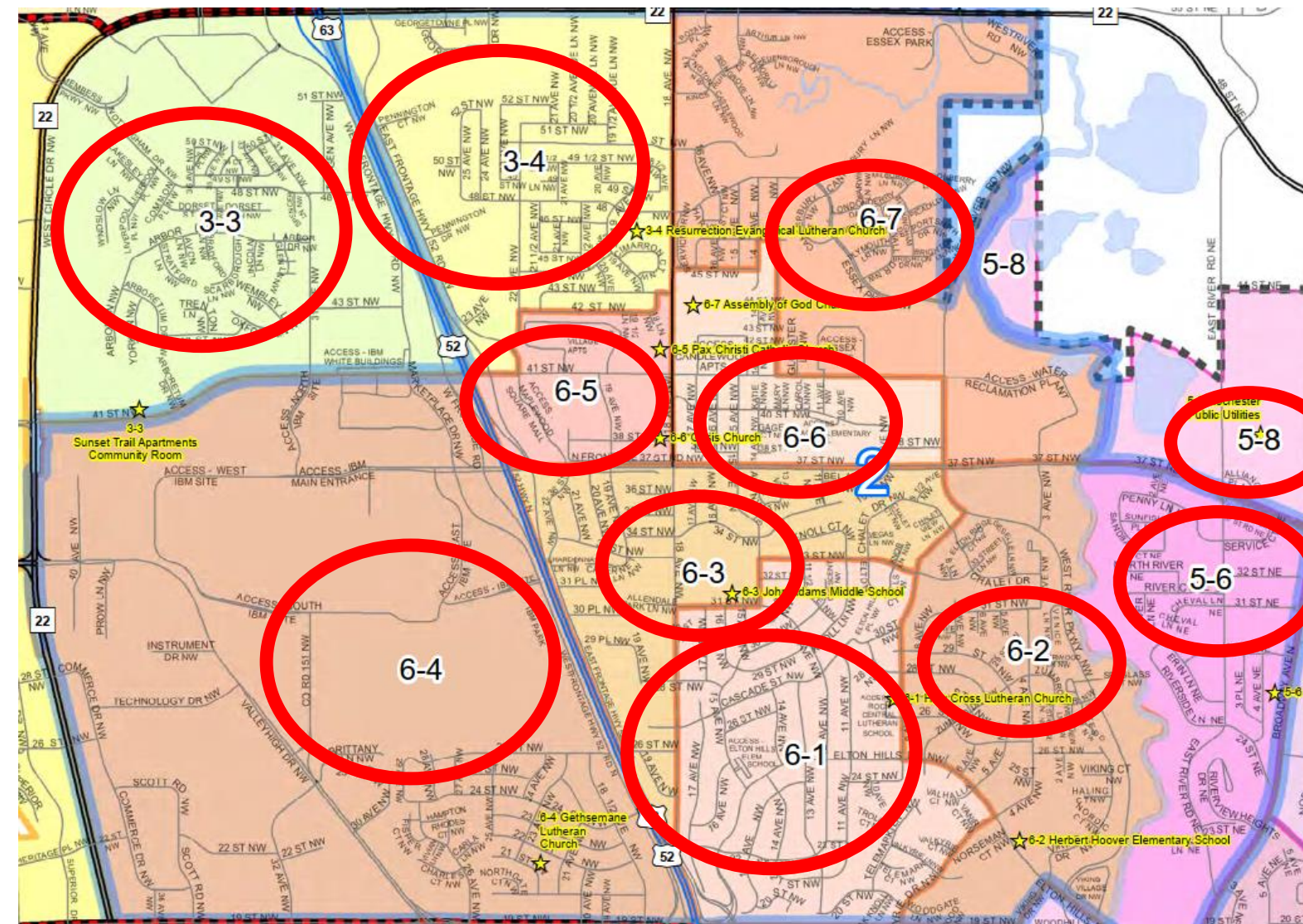


Definitions

What is a precinct?

Precincts are the basic geographic area used for elections. Ballots are created and results are generally reported at the precinct level.

Political parties also utilize precinct information for organizing and outreach efforts.



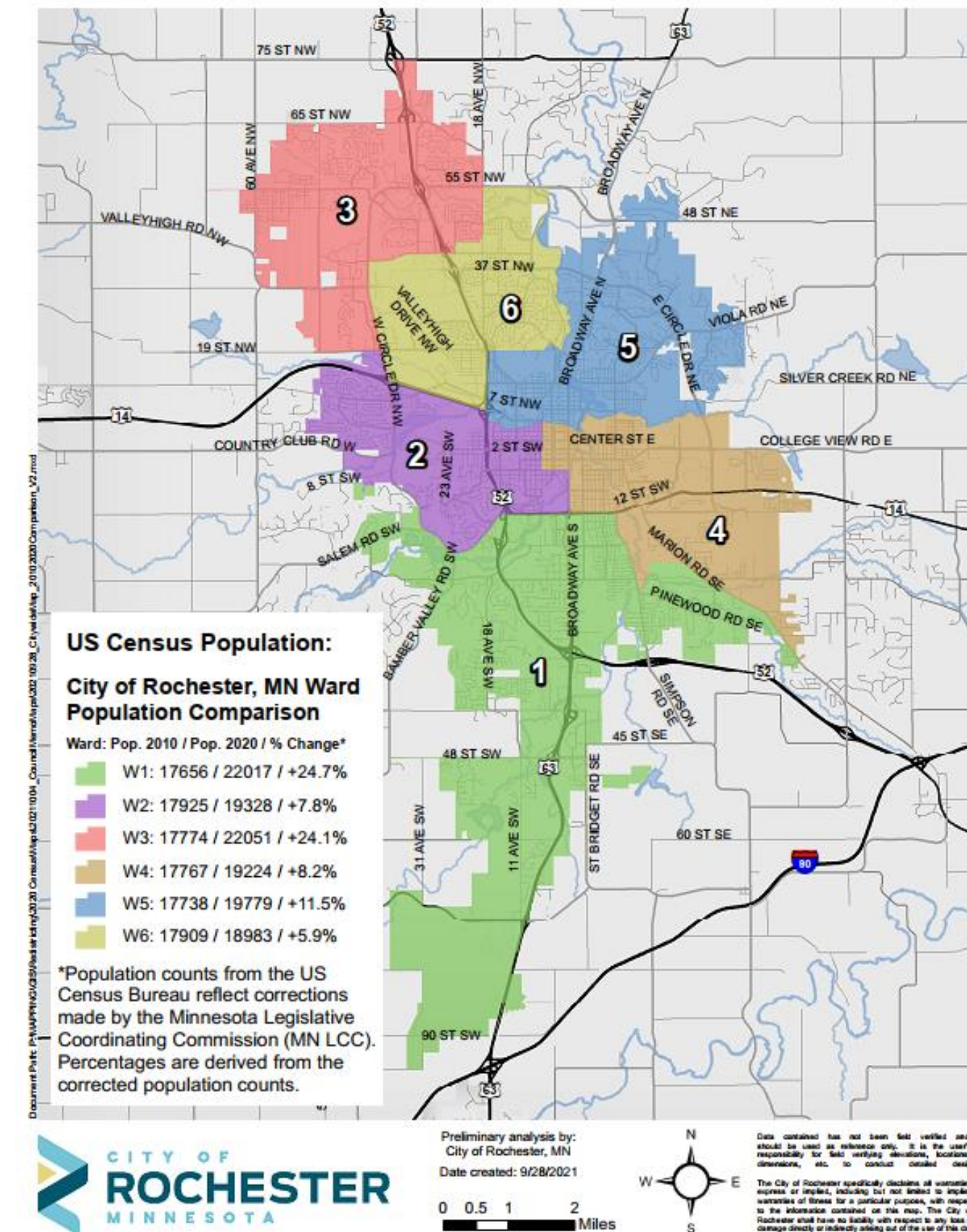


Definitions

What is a ward?

Wards are districts that some cities use to elect members of city council. Among the over 850 cities in Minnesota, only about 70 use wards for electing council members, the others elect their council at large. The City of Rochester's Charter requires that there be 6 wards.

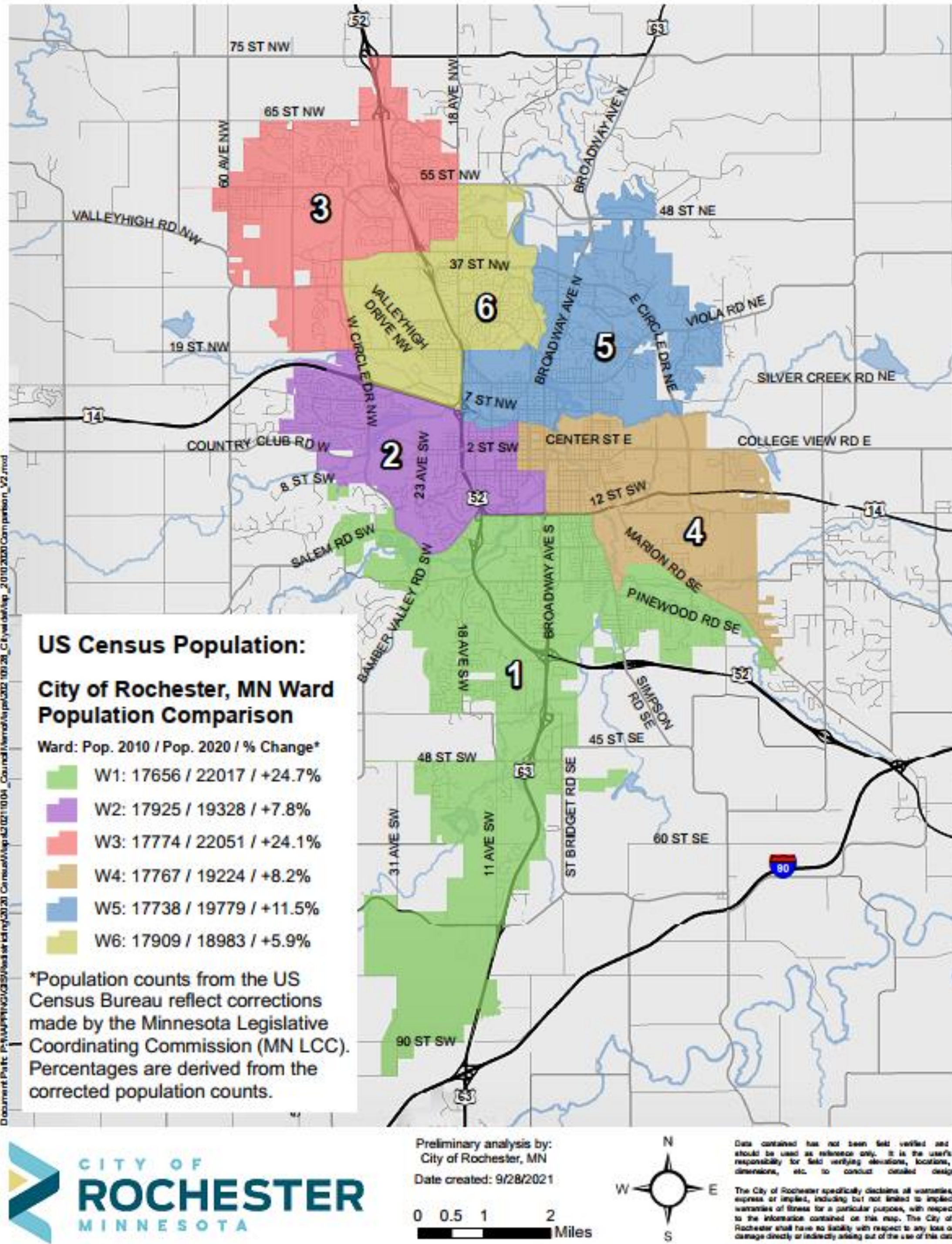
NOTE: The 7th member of council is elected at-large and serves as the Council President.





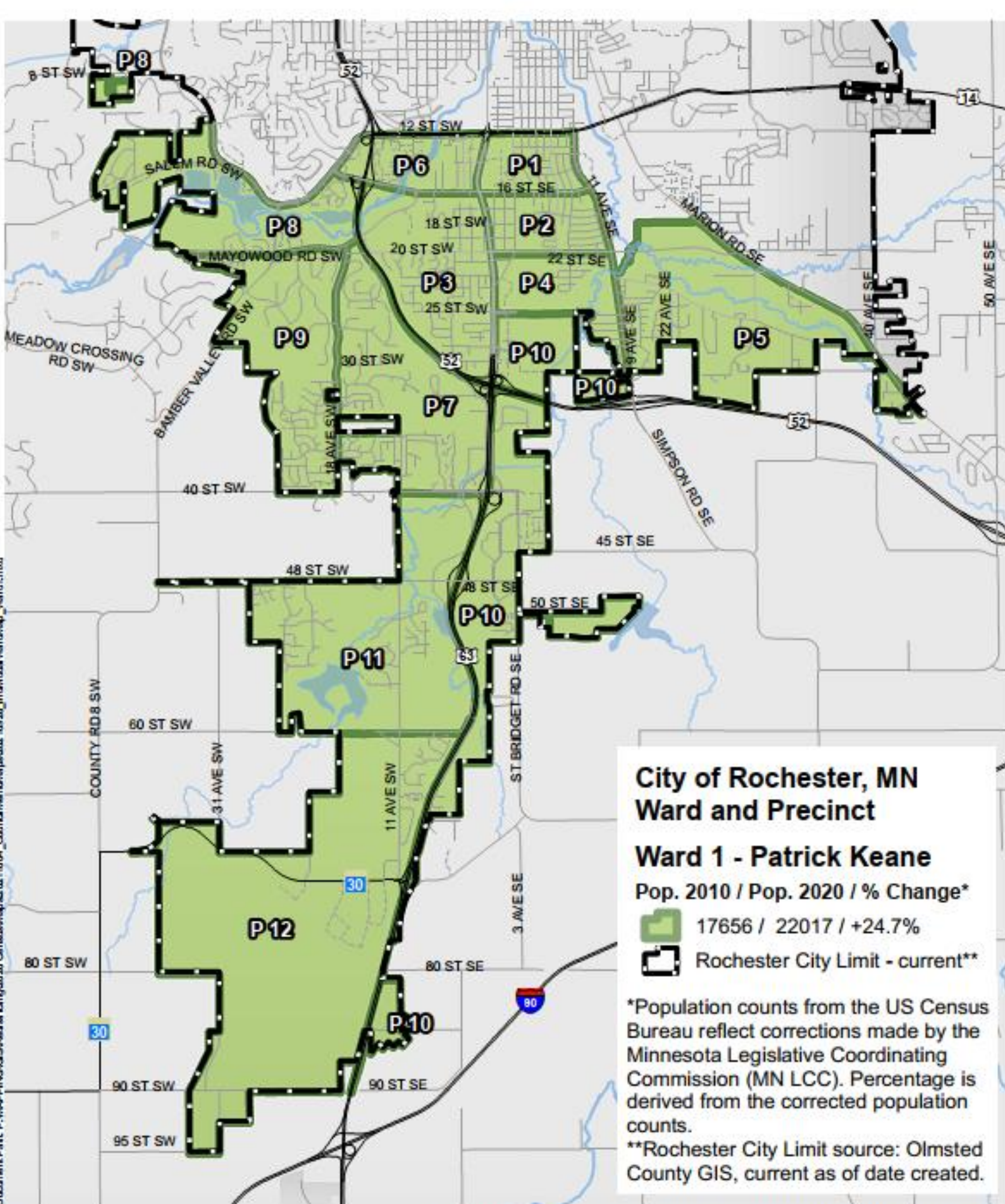
Rochester and Minnesota by the numbers

2020 Census Data	Totals	Notes
Rochester Population	121,395	+14,626 from 2010 population of 106,769 (13.6%). Rochester was the 3 rd fastest growing city in the state, behind Minneapolis and St. Paul.
Rochester Ward ideal size	20,233	Total population 121,395 / 6 wards
Minnesota Population	5,706,494	Grew 7.6% between 2010 and 2020
Congressional District ideal size	713,312	Total population 5,706,494 / 8 districts
MN Senate ideal size	85,172	Total population 5,706,494 / 67 senate seats
MN House ideal size	42,586	Total population 5,706,494 / 134 house seats



Current Rochester Wards

- Rochester grew 13.6% compared to 2010
- Ward 1 and 3 had the most growth since 2010, 24.7% and 24.1% respectively



Rochester Ward 1

- Council Member Patrick Keane
- 2020 Census population 22,017
- Growth 24.7% from 2010

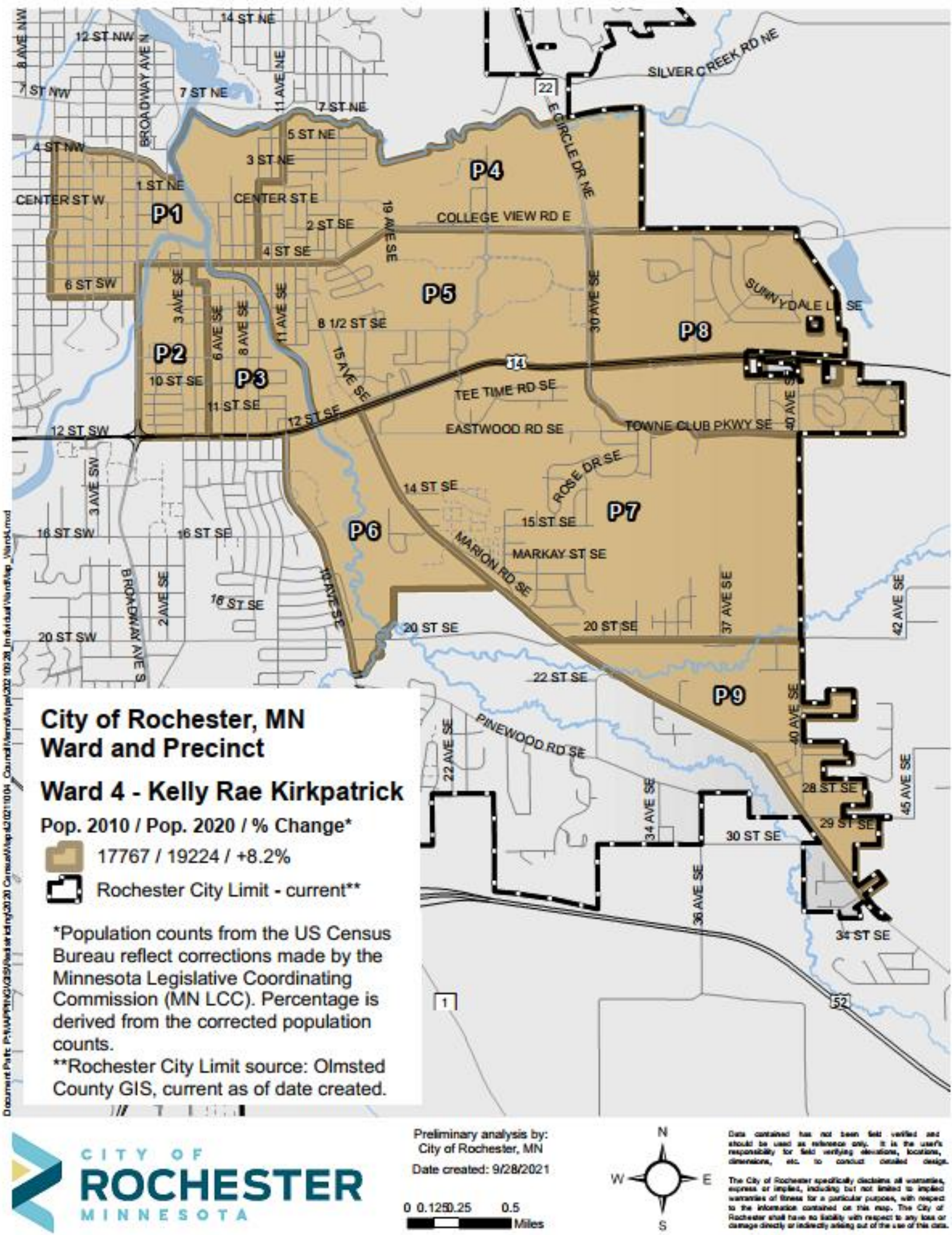
Ideal Ward Size: 20,233

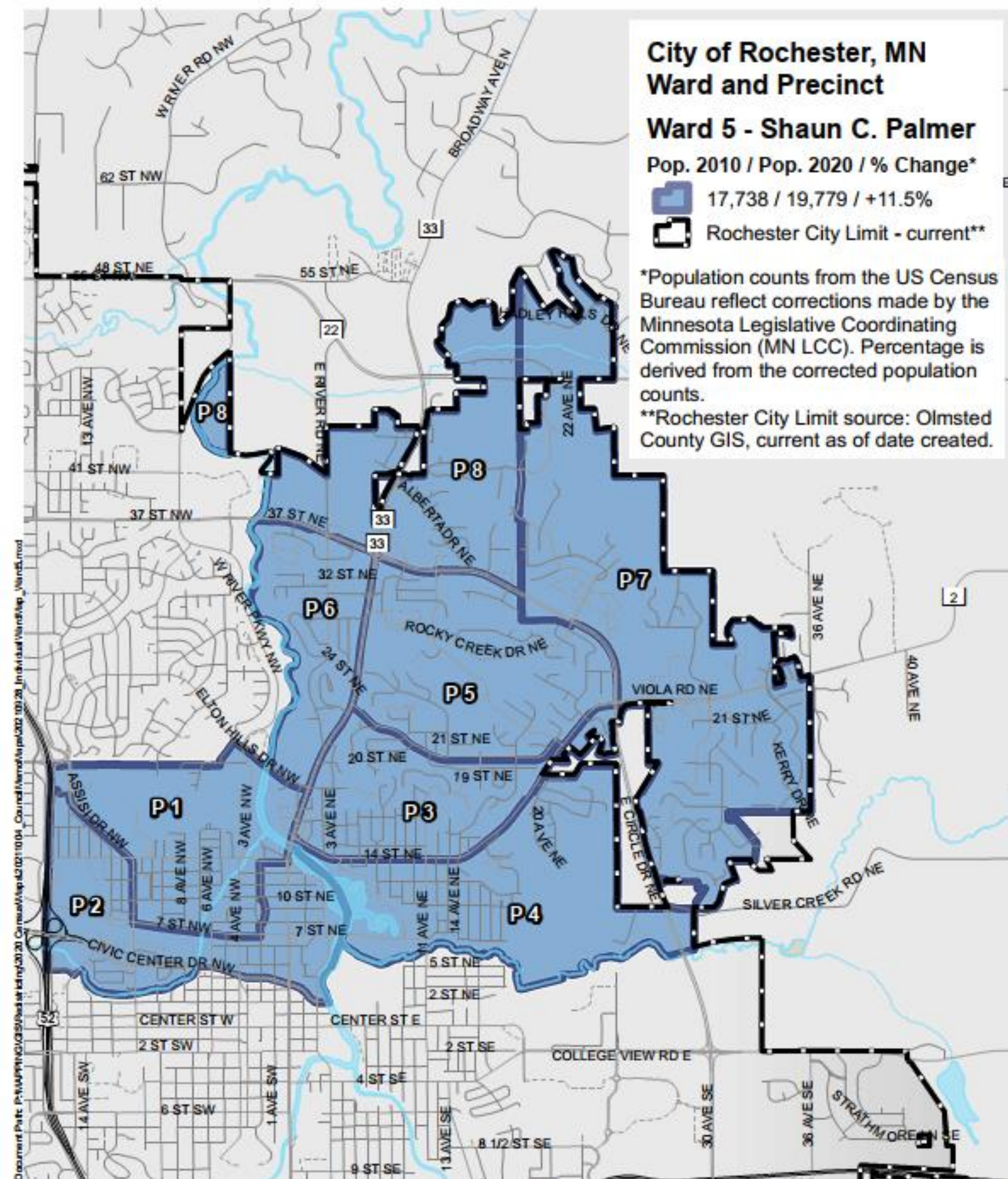
Ward 1 needs to reduce/subtract by ~1,784

Rochester Ward 4

- Council Member Kelly Rae Kirkpatrick
- 2020 Census population 19,224
- Growth 8.2% since 2010

Ideal Ward Size: 20,233
Ward 4 needs to gain/add ~1,009



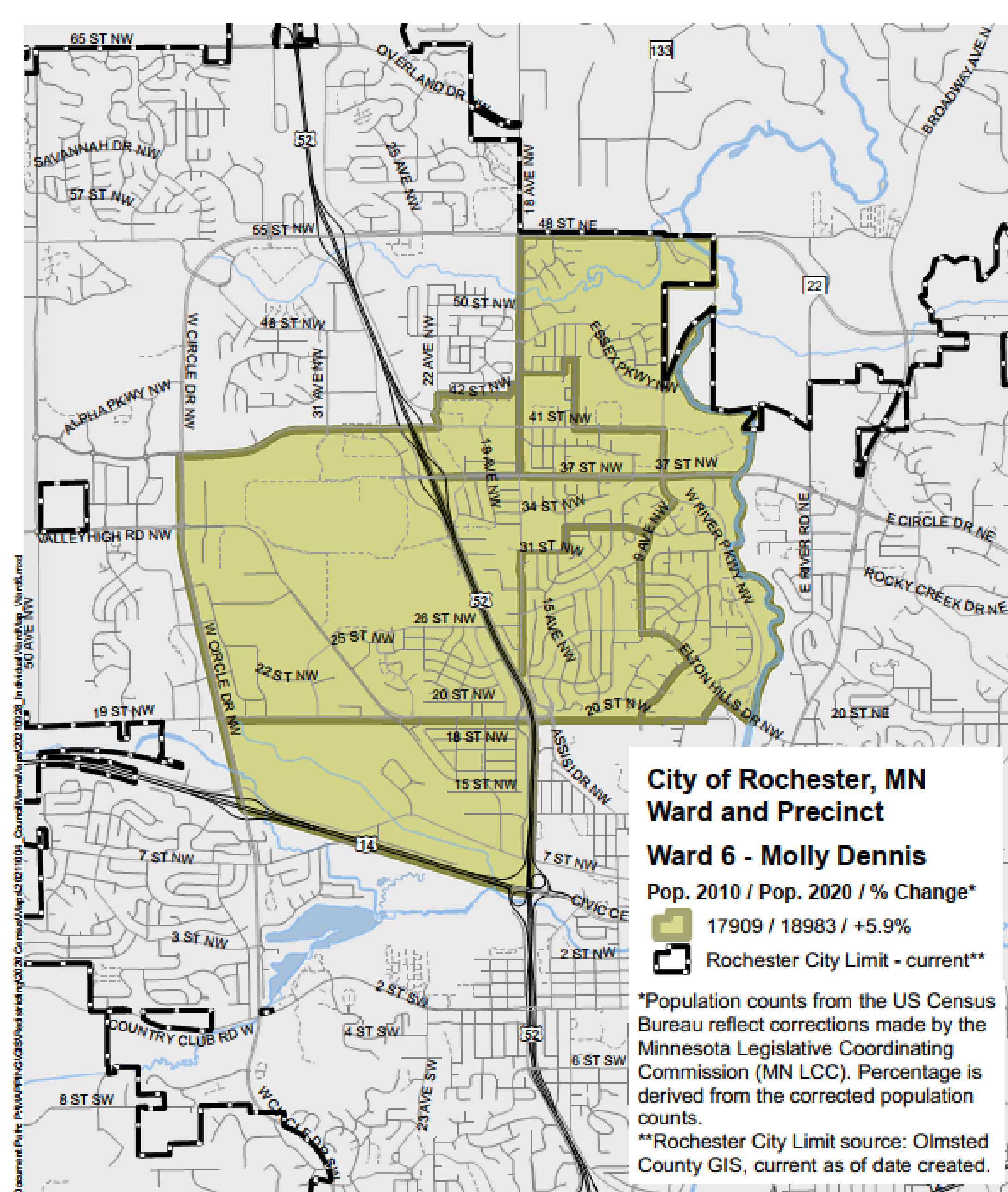


Rochester Ward 5

- Council Member Shaun Palmer
- 2020 Census population 19,779
- Growth 11.5% since 2010

Ideal Ward Size: 20,233

Ward 5 needs to gain/add ~454



Rochester Ward 6

- Council Member Molly Dennis
- 2020 Census population 18,983
- Growth 5.9% from 2010

Ideal Ward Size: 20,233

Ward 6 needs to gain/add ~1,205



Redistricting Requirements

Federal Requirements:

- Equal in size
- Must not be drawn with either the purpose or effect of abridging the right of any citizen to vote on account of race, ethnicity, or membership in a language minority group, and otherwise must comply with the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act

State Requirements:

- Convenient and contiguous territory
- Compact



Redistricting Requirements

Rochester Charter Requirements:

- Six (6) wards
- “...compact, contiguous territory and shall contain as nearly as practicable an equal population.”
- “Wherever possible ward boundary lines shall follow the center lines of streets, avenues, alleys and boulevards and shall run due east and west and north and south.”



Redistricting Requirements

Rochester Redistricting Policy (adopted 12/6/21) Requirements:

- The City will keep communities of interest in one Ward whenever possible. A community of interest refers to a group of people with a common set of concerns that may be affected by legislation. Examples of communities of interest include ethnic, racial, social, and economic groups. Communities of interest will be identified by the City and informed by a public engagement process.
- Subject to applicable law and the overriding principles of fairness and equity and in the interest of continuity, the City will change the boundaries of the Wards as little as possible.
- Wards must not be drawn with the purpose of protecting, promoting, or defeating any incumbent, candidate, or political party. The City will not draw wards based on the residence of incumbent officeholders and will not consider past election results when drawing wards.



Rochester Interactive Map



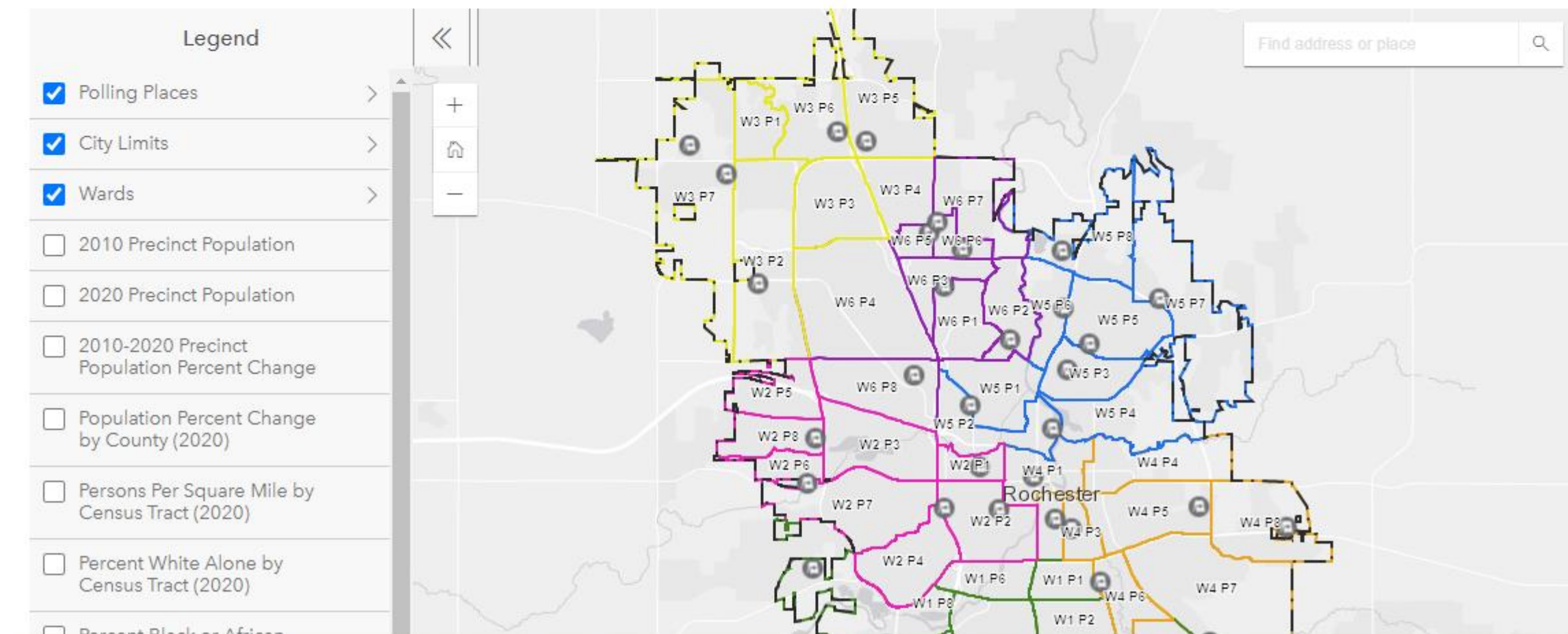
[What is Redistricting?](#) [Redistricting Timeline](#) [Historical Maps](#) [Interactive Maps & Survey](#) [Helpful Resources](#)

Interactive Maps

Watch a quick tutorial on how to use the [interactive map](#).

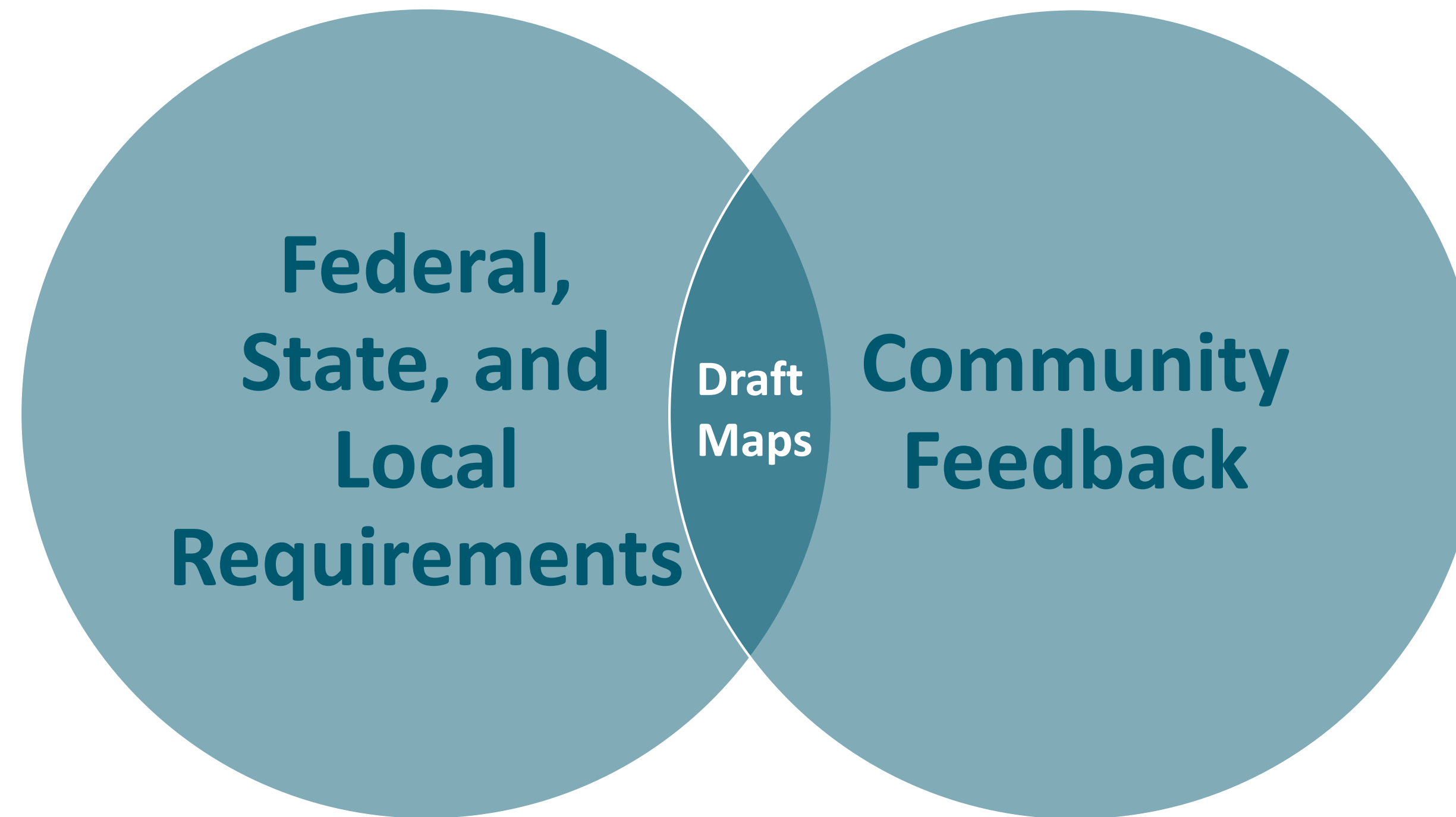
City of Rochester 2020 Demographic Interactive Map

Use the interactive map below to turn layers off and on to learn more about certain areas. Once a layer has been turned on, you can click a location on the map to open a popup which will give you more information. If you click the > to the right of a layer's name, that will open it's legend, showing how a layer is symbolized.





How maps are made





Public Comment on draft maps

- The City will host *a minimum of two* public comment meetings to review the draft maps. Stay tuned for dates/times/locations.
- Physical maps will be on display at City Hall, Rochester Public Library and 125Live.
- The City will review all comments and consider changes to the maps. A final map will be submitted to City Council for approval prior to the March 29, 2022, deadline.





Additional Resources

Redistricting toolkits are available for pick up the Government Center (1st floor information desk) and at Rochester Public Library.

Digital Redistricting toolkits are online and include interactive maps and a survey:

www.rochestermn.gov/redistricting

www.olmstedcounty.gov/redistricting



Questions?

If you have additional questions please contact:

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